

**FOSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

Captain Isaac Paine School  
160 Foster Center Road  
Foster, RI 02825

Tuesday, November 25, 2014  
Open Session – 7:15 PM

1. **Convene Meeting** – Chair, Kathleen Swanson called the meeting of the Foster School Committee (FSC) to order Tuesday, November 25, 2014 at 7:15 PM.
  - a. *Roll Call* – all members were present: Chair, Kathleen Swanson, Vice-Chair, Shelley Pezza, member, Ron Cervasio, Superintendent, Dr. Caroline Caswell, and secretary, Helena McCullough.
  - b. *Pledge of Allegiance* – was recited.
2. **Public Comment** – there was no public comment.
3. **Vote to go into Executive Session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business referred to in R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a) (2) Collective Bargaining and Litigation –Foster Teachers’ Association.** This item was moved to the end of Open Session.
4. **Building Use Requests** – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved three building requests as presented. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
5. **Approval of Minutes** – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved the Open and Executive Session Minutes of October 28, 2014. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
6. **Approval of Warrants** – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved the following Warrants: Run #8, dated 10/30/2014 for \$196,241.91, Run #9, dated 11/12/2014 for \$14,414.10, and Run #10, dated 11/18/2014 for \$14,467.42. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
  - a. *Business Manager’s Report* – Michael Petrarca, Business Manager, provided a year to date Expenditure Report up to 11/20/2014 with no unforeseen activity to have an adverse effect on the budget. In the upcoming months the focus will be on the budget for 2015-2016.
7. **Old Business (for discussion/action)**
  - a. *Long Term Substitute – Policy #4122 – Revised* – a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved the revision of the Substitute Policy #4122. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
  - b. *Transportation – Impact Statement* – Dr. Caswell informed the FSC that there was no fiscal impact as the transportation company has been able to accommodate and revise the bus route.

- c. *Disposition of Surplus Equipment / Books – Policy #7000 – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading* – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved the first reading of Disposition of Surplus Equipment / Books, Policy #7000. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

#### **8. New Business (for discussion/action)**

- a. *Attendance – Policy #5142 – Review* – the FSC had a lengthy discussion and review concerning the attendance policy. No votes were taken.
- b. *Capital Improvement Plan* – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved the Capital Improvement Plan as presented. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
- c. **Technology – Report** – Dr. Steve Du supplied the FSC with an update on technology. Dr. Caswell reported that the school will be ready for PARCC, with two portable carts holding laptops. The WiFi upgrade is complete. Report cards are electronic now and supported by a free google app for the 2014-2015 school year while Aspen is formulated to accommodate this function in the future.
  - 1) *New Server* – on a motion by Mrs. Swanson and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the FSC approved the upgrade for a new server from DELL (on the state bid list). Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

#### **9. Communication/Reports**

- a. *Correspondence* – Mrs. Swanson shared that she had received several emails pertaining to the Attendance Policy.
- b. *District Building Report* – John Obuirka, Director of Facilities Operations, supplied the FSC with a report concerning several heating repairs due to deterioration of pipe and failed couplings. RIDE Stage 1 & 2 for the safe foyer entry is progressing forward. Mr. Obuirka met with the Department of Health to go over the application for the loan forgiveness program for a new water system which pays up to \$50,000 should we be chosen.
- c. *Principal's Report* – Kristen Danusis, Principal, updated the FSC on the Peace Pole project secured last year from Lowes. The poles will line the front entry of the building and will be created by students at each grade level. An instructional night was held on November 20, 2014 in which students taught their parents the math they have been learning and also an overview of the new common core report card. The School Safety Plan has been updated with input from local fire and police departments and with Police at lockdown and fire drills.
- d. *Superintendent's Report* – Dr. Caswell reported that the tri-district Superintendents met and discussed developing the 2015-2016 school calendar.

At this point a motion by Ms. Pezza, seconded by Mr. Cervasio to go into Executive Session was made. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC reconvened Open Session. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

Mrs. Swanson reported that Collective Bargaining and Litigation were discussed and no votes were taken.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC voted to “Seal” the minutes of Executive Session. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

**10. Future Agenda Items –**

- a. Transportation – Town Charter Change for Busing
- b. Disposition of Surplus Equipment / Books, Policy #7000 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading
- c. Calendar 2015-2016
- d. Staff Recognition
- e. Budget Workshop Sessions
  - 1) Budget Calendar

**11. Adjournment** – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC voted to adjourn at 8:40 PM. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Helena McCullough  
Secretary Foster School Committee